

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 001678

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR, PM, EUR/RPM, EUR/UBI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2010

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NL](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: DUTCH GOVERNMENT NOTIFIED OF SOESTERBERG  
FACILITIES CLOSURE

REF: SECSTATE 100360

CLASSIFIED BY POLCOUNS STEPHEN R. KELLY; REASONS 1.5 (B,D).

1.(C) EMBASSY DELIVERED REFTEL NOTIFICATION TO THE  
NETHERLANDS MFA ON 6/5. TO DATE, THE MFA HAS MADE NO COMMENT  
ON THE NOTIFICATION.

2.(SBU) COMMENT IN OTHER FORA ABOUT PREVIOUSLY HELD INFORMAL  
CONSULTATIONS REGARDING THE SOESTERBERG FACILITY TERMINATION  
HAS BEEN LIMITED. ON MAY 17, IN A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO A  
LETTER EARLIER SUBMITTED TO THE MOD BY VVD DEFENSE  
SPOKERPERSON THEO VAN DEN DOEL, STATE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE  
HENK VAN HOOF INFORMED THE PARLIAMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN  
"INFORMED ORALLY BY THE U.S. ON MAY 4 THAT THE COB STATUS OF  
SOESTERBERG AIR BASE HAD EXPIRED. THE PROMISE WAS MADE THAT  
THIS WOULD SOON BE CONFIRMED IN WRITING. NOW THAT THE COB  
STATUS HAS EXPIRED, THE NUMBER OF FLIGHT MOVEMENTS RESERVED  
FOR JET FIGHTERS HAS BEEN CANCELLED...SINCE THE AIRBASE WILL  
REMAIN OPEN, THE REQUIRED AND EXISTING FACILITIES TO KEEP IT  
OPEN MUST BE MAINTAINED. THE BULK OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE'S  
FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BEEN GIVEN ANOTHER  
DESTINATION SINCE THE AMERICAN UNIT LEFT. SOESTERBERG AIR  
BASE WILL REMAIN THE HOME BASE OF TWO (DUTCH) TRANSPORT  
HELICOPTER SQUADRONS AND A RESERVE BASE FOR DUTCH F-16'S."  
FENDRICK